GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1865
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH SRI LANKA
Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru;Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks regarding cooperation in Defence are being held between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which an agreement in the Defence sector is likely to be reached between the two countries; and

(d) the progress made in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) There is no institutionalized dialogue for defence cooperation. However, Defence cooperation with Sri Lanka is conducted through the Indian High Commission in Colombo and exchanges of high-level visits, as part of Indo-Sri Lanka overall bilateral relations.

(b) Defence cooperation between India and Sri Lanka has been mainly in the area of training for Sri Lankan defence personnel in Indian defence training institutions, flood and Tsunami related relief assistance, high-level defence and military related visits, ship visits and joint or coordinated maritime patrolling in common or contiguous waters, and occasional material assistance.

(c) & (d): A Defence Cooperation Agreement proposed by Sri Lanka has been under the consideration of the Government. No decision on its conclusion and signature has been taken by the Government as yet.